[27th September 1956

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The Government have sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 8·65 lakhs for the Industrial School at Cannanore;

(*b*) The school was started on 27th August 1956.

* 264 *Q*.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer to unstarred question No. 732 on 22nd March 1956 when the proposed Industrial School at Cannanore will be opened?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Industrial School at Cannanore was started on 27th August 1956.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know the strength of the institution at present?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Twelve courses with a strength of 20 seats in each are to be started in this school. Six courses are to be started this year and another six courses next year. I have no information about the present actual strength of this school.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : How many courses have actually been started this year?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no information as to how many courses have been actually started.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated 26th September 1956, from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

"In accordance with Rule 115 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1956 (L.C. Bill No. 5 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Council on the 26th September 1956 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Assembly."

III.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* THE FUTURE OF THE MALABAR DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS EMPLOYEES.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice under rule 40 from Sri Kunhi Mohamed Shafee calling the attention of the Minister for Local Administration to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the future of the Malabar District Board and its employees.

* SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 40 I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Local Administration to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the future of the Malabar District Board and its employees.

27th September 1956] [Sri K. Kunhi Mohamed Shafee]

The Malabar District Board is a local body constituted under the Madras District Boards Act, 1920. Under the scheme of States Reorganization, Malabar district has to be integrated with the Travancore-Cochin State where there are no district boards. Under the Malabar District Board, there are 26 high schools and about 1,000 elementary schools. Seven hundred and fifty-three high school teachers and about 4,414 elementary school teachers are employed in these institutions. There are about 77 medical institutions like hospitals, local fund dispensaries and rural dispensaries and the employees in them number about 300. There are 962 miles of road under the Board and the Board spends a substantial sum of Rs. 1,68,539 towards payment of rent to the owners of private buildings in which schools are conducted. To take the future of the Board and its employees lightly is rather very undesirable. We have read reports in the newspapers that to a question put in the Lok Sabha of the Union Parliament the concerned Minister answered that the future of the district board would be decided by the future Kerala State Government. It was reported that in reply to a communication sent by the President of the Malabar District Board, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras had informed him that there is provision for the adaptation of the law in the future Kerala State in section 120 of the States Reorganization Act.

The section says—

' For the purpose of facilitating the application of any law in relation to any of the States formed or territorially altered by the provisions of Part II, the appropriate Government may, before the expiration of one year from the appointed day, by order, make such adaptations and modifications of the law, whether by way of repeal or amendment, as may be necessary or expedient . . .' 9-40 a.m.

In this case, we will have no State Legislature in the Kerala State when it will be formed in November. The Government of Madras must find out some way of maintaining or ending the present district board. Another peculiar feature of the district is that the district itself is going to be trifurcated in the near future. Instead of the one Malabar district that we are having now there will be three districts. The present district will be divided into three parts, and there will be three districts. In such a contingency, there is no provision in the Madras District Boards Act to do the needful. This matter cannot be left for the future Government to do as they like. In the Kerala State we will be having the President's rule and Parliament in the Centre will have to make enactments for the administration of the Kerala State. Taking all these situations into consideration, the Madras Government are expected to report to the Government of India to make the necessary amendments for the running of the Malabar District Board. People in the district of Malabar are very much agitated about the future of the Board, the term of which will expire in the very near future. Elections to the

Board are due next year. Taking all these facts into consideration, I wish to know from the Hon. Minister what steps the Government have taken regarding the future of the Malabar District Board and its employees.

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYATCHI : Sir, the Government are aware of the fears that are being entertained by the employees of the Malabar District Board. The Malabar District Board Superior Employees' Association at its general body meeting held at Kozhikode on 21st July 1956 adopted a resolution giving expression to the fears of the employees in this regard. The Association has also requested this Government to forward to the Government of India a representation enclosing a copy of the resolution adopted by the Association. It is proposed to forward the resolution of the Association to the Travancore-Cochin Government and not to the Government of India.

Under Clause 120 of the States Reorganisation Bill, the laws in force in the existing States will continue to be in force until the competent legislature or other competent authority amends or repeals them. The existing laws will then have to be administered by the Government of the new State in the transferred territories till they are repealed or amended.

In view of the provisions in clause 120 of the States Reorganisation Bill, 1956, the Madras District Boards Act, 1920, will continue to be in force in the transferred territory and as a result of this, the District Board, Malabar, will continue to exist and the service conditions of the employees of the district board will also continue to remain unaffected until other provisions are made by the new Kerala State. In view of what has been stated, there seems to be no need for any apprehension in the matter.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : In view of the importance of the statement read by the Hon. Minister (unfortunately, it was not quite clearly understandable), will the Hon. Speaker kindly arrange that copies of the statement be distributed among the Members. It is a very useful statement, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister must do this.

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYATCHI : I will consider this, Sir.

IV.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* STRIKE IN RAMADASS HARIDASS RICE AND OIL MILLS, KOZHIKODE.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Sri K .P. Gopalan that, "This Assembly stands adjourned to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, viz., the strike now going on in the Ramadass Haridass Rice and Oil Mills, Westhill, Kozhikode, since 42 days and the failure of the Government in the same."